

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of creating a medical reference book on a desired topic, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

a) entering medical data in an electronic authoring tool, the electronic authoring tool including:

i) a master outline authoring tool, whereby the author is able to create a linkage between a diagnosis, an anatomical region, and a pathology;

ii) a case authoring tool, whereby the author is able to enter and edit images and text relating to a particular case; and

iii) a diagnostic authoring tool, whereby the author is able to create a comprehensive description of the diagnosis;

b) transferring the medical data into a relational content database, wherein the medical data is stored as a series of reformattable data objects which are associated with data which describes each data object and its relationship to other data objects in the relational content database;

c) selecting the desired topic about which the electronic clinical reference material is to be created;

d) navigating the relational content database for medical data pertaining to the desired topic using the data associated with each data object in the relational content database which describes the data objects and their relationships; and

e) identifying data objects in the relational content database associated with medical data pertaining to the desired topic for inclusion in a medical reference book of a requested format;

f) compiling the identified data objects into a medical reference book by reformatting the identified data objects in the content database into the requested format; and

g) generating the electronic clinical reference material on a desired topic in the requested format.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further including the step of reviewing the medical reference information prior to its transfer into the content database.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the medical reference book is a printed book.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the medical reference book is an electronic book.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic authoring tool includes one or more graphical user interfaces through which medical reference information is entered into the content database.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An electronic clinical reference and education system, comprising:

a) a relational content database containing medical reference information, where the medical data is stored as a series of reformattable data objects which are associated with data which describes each data object and its relationship to other data objects in the relational content database;

b) an electronic authoring tool through which medical reference information is entered in a first format and transferred into the relational content database as a series of reformattable data objects which are reformatted into a second specified format; and

c) a diagnostic reference system through which a user is able to search the relational content database for one or more diagnoses.

7. **(Original)** The system of claim 6 further comprising an expert imaging center protocol advisor for providing imaging protocols.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 6 further comprising a continuing medical education system, that is capable of tracking a user's time in reviewing the medical reference information, and optionally asking one or more questions pertaining to the reviewed medical reference information, tracking the user's test performance, and granting the user continuing medical education credits once the questions are successfully answered.

9. **(Original)** The system of claim 6, wherein the electronic authoring tool further comprises:

a) a master outline authoring tool, whereby the author is able to create a linkage between a diagnosis, an anatomical region, and a pathology;

b) a case authoring tool, whereby the author is able to enter and edit images and text relating to a particular case; and

c) a diagnostic authoring tool, whereby the author is able to create a comprehensive description of the diagnosis.

10. **(Original)** The system of claim 6, wherein the content database is searchable online.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An electronic clinical reference and education system comprising a processor and a database, the electronic clinical reference and education system comprising:

a) a content management process, designed and configured to integrate authors, tools, content submission, quality assurance, content approval and content staging;

b) a system management process, designed and configured to provide system usage tracking and analysis, branding and licensing management, and systems administration;

c) a product deployment process, designed and configured to provide a suite of institutional reference and education materials including a diagnostic reference system, an expert imaging center system, and a continuing medical education system; and

d) a relational content database that contains and organizes information relating to, and originating from, the content management process, system management process, and product deployment process;

wherein the relational content database is a database where the information relating to and originating from the content management process, system management process, and product deployment process are stored as a series of reformattable data objects which are associated with data which describes each data object and its relationship to other data objects in the relational content database, and the product deployment process comprises reformatting the data objects into education materials of a specified format.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 11, wherein the electronic clinical reference and education system is related to a professional area of practice requiring recognition of a visual item to assist a professional in making an informed decision based on the visual item presented.

13. **(Original)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 12, wherein the professional area of practice is medicine.

14. **(Original)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 12, wherein the professional area of practice is engineering.

15. **(Original)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 13, wherein the professional area of practice is automobile maintenance and repair.